

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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O 011505Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6973

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 10665

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINR, AO, CU, CG, BE

SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: FNLC VIEWS FROM BELGIUM

REF: A) BRUSSELS 3822, B) TOWELL-JUNIOR TELECON

1. WITH THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES IN SHABA, WE HAVE CONTINUED EMBASSY POLICY OF A "STAND-DOWN" ON CONTACTS WITH ZAIRIAN OPPOSITION ELEMENTS OF ALL POLITICAL PERSUASIONS (REFTEL AND PREVIOUS) AND HAVE POLITELY BUT FIRMLY DEFLECTED CALLERS WHO SOUGHT TO COME IN AND MEET WITH EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICERS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN SHABA, WITH THE FOLLOWING GLARING EXCEPTION. ON THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 30, TWO AFRICANS WHO HAD COME TO THE EMBASSY DURING THE 1977 SHABA INVASION ACCOSTED EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER WHO DEALS WITH AFRICAN AFFAIRS IN THE LOBBY OF THE EMBASSY AS HE WAS RETURNING FROM LUNCH. INASMUCH AS EMBOFF WAS VIRTUALLY CORNERED, HE HEARD THEM OUT FOR SOME TWENTY MINUTES AND ACCEPTED WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION FROM THEM.

2. THE TWO AFRICANS WERE JACQUES MUTOMBO-CARTIER,
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FNLC DELEGATE FOR EUROPE WHO USED TO RESIDE IN PARIS BUT IS NOW IN BRUSSELS, AND ANDRE KALOB, WHO, ACCORDING TO BELGIAN SECURITY SERVICE, IS THE FNLC'S BENELUX AND GERMAN REPRESENTATIVE. DOCUMENTS LEFT WERE COPIES OF A FNLC PRESS COMMUNIQUE AND A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MBUMBA ADDRESSED TO COMPANIES HAVING INVESTMENTS IN CONGO (ZAIRE). DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN

POUCHED TO AF/C DON JUNIOR.

3. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS MADE BY MUTOMBO-CARTIER AND KALOKA, WITH MUTOMBO-CARTIER DOING VIRTUALLY ALL THE TALKING:

A. MUTOMBO-CARTIER SAID THAT THE FNLC CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAD NOTED WITH "SATISFACTION" THE "RESERVED" ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SHABA.¹⁵ HE ADDED SPECIFICALLY THAT THE FNLC WAS PLEASED THAT THE UNITED STATES DID NOT SEND TROOPS.

B. MUTOMBO-CARTIER STRESSED THAT THE FNLC IS NEITHER A LUNDA TRIBAL ORGANIZATION NOR A MILITARY BAND OF EX-KATANGAN GENDARMES WITH SUCCESSIONIST AIMS. ON THE CONTRARY, IT IS A NATIONAL POLITICAL/MILITARY ORGANIZATION MADE UP OF PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE CONGO, WITH ELEMENTS FROM EVERMPROVINCE. HE SAID FNLC MEMBERS ARE NOT COMMUNISTS.

C. HE SAID THAT PURPOSE OF KOLWEZI UPRISING WAS TO OVERTHROW THE MOBUTU REGIME. HE SAID FNLC PICKED KOLWEZI TO COMMENCE OPERATIONS FOR TWO REASONS:

-- TO STRIKE AT SHABA'S RICHEST CITY AND DENY ITS RESOURCES TO THE MOBUTU REGIME.
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-- TO STRIKE AT SHABA'S RICHEST CITY IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE TO MOBUTU, TO CONGOLESE PEOPLE, AND TO THE WORLD, THAT THE FNLC IS CAPABLE OF DOING WHATEVER IT WANTS, WHEREVER IT WANTS, AND WHENEVER IT WANTS.

D. MUTOMBO-CARTIER SAID THAT THE FNLC SEEKS A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO ZAIRE'S PROBLEMS WITHOUT FURTHER RESORT TO ARMS. HE SAID THAT IT IS OPPOSED TO MOBUTU REGIME'S CORRUPTION, MISMANAGEMENT, AND OPPRESSION, WHICH LEAVE THE ZAIRIAN PEOPLE IN A STATE OF MISERY. WESTERN ECONOMIC AID TO THE MOBUTU REGIME IS "THROWN AWAY" BECAUSE IT GOES TO MOBUTU'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND THE ZAIRIAN PEOPLE GET NO BENEFIT FROM IT.

E. HE SAID THAT, AFTER THE FALL OF MOBUTU, THE FNLC WANTS THE CONGO TO HAVE FREE ELECTIONS, FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF DEMOCRACY, AND RESPONSIBLE, CAPABLE LEADERSHIP. HE SAID THAT THE FNLC IS NOT OPPOSED TO WESTERN INVESTMENT IN ZAIRE.

F. MUTOMBO-CARTIER SAID THAT, DESPITE MOBUTU'S

PROPAGANDA TO THE CONTRARY, THE FNLC RECEIVED NO TRAINING OR SUPPORT FROM THE CUBANS, EAST GERMANS, OR RUSSIANS. HE SAID THAT REPORTS OF FNLC CADRES AT KOLWEZI BEING ARMED WITH EASTERN BLOC WEAPONS WERE TRUE, BUT THAT THESE WERE WEAPONS THAT HAD BEEN PICKED

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 10665

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UP IN ZAIRE AT VARIOUS TIMES OVER THE LAST TEN OR SO YEARS. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY HAD CHINESE ARMS THAT HAD BEEN CAPTURED FROM THE FAZ, AND SOVIET ARMS THAT HAD COME FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES, INCLUDING THE FAZ, GIZENGA. SOME EVEN HAD COME TO THE FAZ VIA UGANDA'S PRESIDENT AMIN.

G. MUTOMBO-CARTIER SAID THAT THE MASSACRES OF BLACKS AND WHITES IN KOLWEZI AND THE CONTINUING LOOTING IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FAZ AND DUE TO ITS NOTORIOUS LACK OF DISCIPLINE. HE SAID THAT THE FNLC HAD GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS CADRES NOT TO ATTACK ANY NON-COMBATTANTS, INCLUDING FOREIGNERS. HE SAID THAT MANY OF THE DEATHS WERE THE RESULT OF FAZ SOLDIERS HIDING IN THE HOUSES OF WHITES.

H. HE SAID THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF FNLC ELEMENTS INVOLVED IN THE KOLWEZI OPERATION WERE FROM THE REGION ITSELF, WITH ONLY SMALLER "CADRES" OF FNLC CROSSING OVER FROM ANGOLA. HE SAID THAT THE FNLC IS PRESENTLY STILL IN KOLWEZI AND IN OTHER AREAS OF SHABA PROVINCE. HE REPEATED THAT THE FNLC HAD SHOWN AT

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KOLWEZI THAT IT COULD DO AS IT WANTED, AND THAT IT NOW IS ABLE TO ACT AGAIN AT ANOTHER PLACE WHEN IT SO DETERMINES IN ORDER TO HASTEN THE OVERTHROW OF MOBUTU.

I. MUTOMBO-CARTIER SAID THAT THE FNLC CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO INFORM THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER WESTERN GOVERNMENTS OF THE FNLC'S BASICALLY PEACEFUL AND DEMOCRATIC AIMS IN SEEKING THE END OF THE MOBUTU REGIME. HE SAID THAT THE FNLC WANTS THE U.S. TO TELL MOBUTU TO GO AND TO LET PEACE AND PROGRESS RETURN TO THAT POTENTIALLY RICH NATION. HE ADDED THAT FNLC ASKS ALL FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM ZAIRE AND SAID THAT THE FNLC WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR GUARANTEEING THE SECURITY OF ALL PEOPLE AND THEIR PROPERTY IN ZAIRE.

J. MUTUMBO-CARTIER SAID THAT HE AND KALUBA WERE PREPARED TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS THAT THE U.S. MIGHT WISH TO PUT TO FNLC CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND WOULD BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE ANY U.S. RESPONSE TO THEIR APPROACH.

4. POLITICAL OFFICER MADE NO COMMENT ON SUBSTANCE OF FNLC PRESENTATION AND SAID THAT, AS WE HAD DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE, WE COULD NOT PROPERLY MAINTAIN CONTACTS WITH OPPOSITIONIST ELEMENTS.
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